

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 IGA-01 ACDA-10 /094 R

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R 060041Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 267754

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH AID: NOON PRESS BRIEFING OF DECEMBER 5

FOLLOWING ARE Q'S AND A'S RE AID TO TURKEY AND RELATED
MATTERS NOON PRESS BRIEFING DECEMBER 5.

QUOTE: Q: ON THE SUBJECT OF AID, DOES THE STATE
DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY REACTION TO THE SENATE VERSION OF THE
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, WHICH PASSED YESTERDAY, WHICH
WOULD CUT OFF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY BY MID-
FEBRUARY?

A: ON THAT SPECIFIC PART OF THE AID BILL, WE ARE PLEASED
WITH THE STATESMANLIKE ACTION OF THE SENATE IN EXTENDING
THE DECEMBER 10 DEADLINE. I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU ALL
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HERE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW ON THAT PARTICULAR

AMENDMENT IS WELL KNOWN.

SPEAKING MORE GENERALLY, THAT WHILE THE BILL CONTAINS A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS WHICH WE DO NOT CONSIDER IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST, WE ARE PLEASED AT THE EFFORTS OF SENATORS HUMPHREY, SPARKMAN, AND OTHERS -- AND FEEL THAT THE BILL DOES REPRESENT RESPONSIBLE ACTION.

AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THEIR ACTIONS NEXT WEEK, IN THE HOPES

OF EARLY ENACTMENT OF ACCEPTABLE LEGISLATION.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, THE MID-FEBRUARY DEADLINE GIVES YOU ENOUGH TIME TO DO WHATEVER HAS TO BE DONE.

A: WELL, WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT PROGRESS CAN BE ACHIEVED, AND TO THIS END THE SECRETARY WILL DIRECT HIS EFFORTS WHILE HE IS IN BRUSSELS NEXT WEEK.

AND ON THAT, I BELIEVE IT MAY HAVE BEEN MENTIONED HERE ALREADY, HE IS PLANNING TO MEET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF TURKEY AND GREECE IN BRUSSELS DURING THE NATO MEETING.

I CANNOT GIVE YOU A SPECIFIC ANSWER ON WHETHER THAT WILL -- BY EXTENDING IT TO THE FEBRUARY 14 DEADLINE, WHETHER THAT WILL BE SUFFICIENT TIME OR NOT. ALL WE CAN DO IS TRY AND DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO HELP THE PARTIES ARRIVE AT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND HOPE THAT PROGRESS CAN BE ACHIEVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY.

Q: AS I UNDERSTAND THE SENATE BILL, IT WOULD CONTINUE THE AID IF -- I THINK THE PHRASE IS "REASONABLE PROGRESS" -- IF REASONABLE PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

WHO JUDGES WHAT IS "REASONABLE PROGRESS?"

A: WELL, I HAVE NOT SEEN THE EXACT LANGUAGE OF THE BILL, BUT I BELIEVE THAT THAT IS A DETERMINATION FOR THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESIDENT TO MAKE, AS I UNDERSTAND IT -- THAT HE WOULD SO CERTIFY THAT HE CONSIDERS THAT PROGRESS, OR "SUFFICIENT PROGRESS" WHATEVER THE EXACT LANGUAGE IS, HAS BEEN MADE. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LAW, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS, AMENDMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE267754
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WJGEHRON:SS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740354-0297
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741254/aaaabtxe.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 SEP 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: URKISH AID: NOON PRESS BRIEFING OF DECEMBER 5 FOLLOWING ARE Q'S AND A'S RE AID TO TURKEY AND RELATED
TAGS: PFOR, TU, US
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005